

E-NEWSLETTER



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We have set up target areas to implement activities and empower people to recognize their land use rights



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Public Information and Awareness Services for Vulnerable Communities



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FROM JUNE TO AUGUST 2024!



LIWG Activities

LIWG Annual General Meeting 2024



On 23th February, the Land Information Working Group steering committee, secretariat and members convened for their 2024 Annual General Meeting. The focus of the meeting was to review the past year's accomplishments and to chart a course for the year ahead. Overall, the LIWG continues to perform well, thanks in part to its ability to secure funding from a variety of sources. The meeting also provided a valuable platform for member organizations to showcase their work related to land and natural resources over the past year. We extend our gratitude to all member organizations and partners for their ongoing collaboration, support, and information exchange on land issues, legislation, and shared natural resources.



Land Advisory Group Meeting

On 14 February 2024, a Land Advisory Group (AG) meeting was conducted in Vientiane Capital by 13 participants from different organizations to discuss how to improve the significant points [GY1] in land and forest. They agreed to revise the Group's Terms of Reference to clarify its role as a platform for information sharing, joint decision-making, and policy advice. The Land AG won't take its own independent action but will support existing projects and policy development. LIWG will set up a document sharing system and communication channels for the Land AG, including inviting new members and scheduling meetings with relevant stakeholders, including forestry experts. Other discussions included updates on land titling and the next phase of a land management project, with a focus on incorporating gender considerations. The next meeting is planned for June and the agenda will be developed based on member suggestions.





Women's Land Rights workshop in Vientiane Province

During March 27 to 29, 2024, the Secretariat team of the Land Information Working Group, together with the Community of Practice for Women's Land Rights (CoP WLR), the Lao Development of Human Resource in the Rural Area (Lao DHRRA), and the Sustainable Agriculture & Environment Development Association (SAEDA), organized coaching activities in Vang Vieng and Hin Heup, Vientiane Province. The coaching activities aimed to strengthen the capacity of Lao DHRRA and SAEDA staffs in promoting women's land rights in targeted community areas. It was also attended by government officers from four District Offices. The training employed manuals, posters, and visual cards as tools to facilitate participant understanding and to allow community members to better envision the concepts. You can look for the tools here <https://laolandinfo.org/piasvc/piasvc-tools/>



LIWG field visit to members in Xiengkhouang



During March 12 to 15, 2024, LIWG undertook field visits to member organizations in Xiengkhouang Province. LIWG visited implementation sites, including PDDA's work on 'Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Production Through Gender Equality and Disabled People's Participation' (PSAPGI project) in Song village and CASE's work on 'Public Information and Awareness Services for Vulnerable Communities in Lao PDR' (PIASVC project) in Tha village. Additionally, the LIWG team held discussions with these member organisations about their project initiation, results, challenges encountered, lessons learned, and collaborative strategies to overcome obstacles and achieve project goals. Summary reports of these are available at: <https://laolandinfo.org/category/blog/stories/>



PIASVC Project Updates

Training of Trainers on Gender Equality Social Inclusion and Women's Land Rights



Now that the MOU has been signed, the PIASVC project has commenced its training of trainers (ToT) program. A 3-days training, held from April 30, and May 2, 3, 2024 in Vientiane Capital, focused on gender equality, social inclusion, and women's land rights. PIASVC staff collaborated with trainers, the Department of Land, the Lao National Front, the Ministry of Justice, the Women's Union Center, and the Forestry Department to deliver the program to 28 participants. The purpose of the training was to build capacity of the various non-profit association sub-grantees, as well as central government employees and to strengthen their skills as trainers. They are now able to deliver their own training and awareness raising activities to their target communities and to the local-level government employees. In addition to training skills, the workshop also focused on joint planning so participants could get ready for the next local and community level activities, which are at the core of PIASVC project's goal.

Sub-Grantee implementation in Tha Village

During March 13-14, 2024, the LIWG team visited Tha Village, Kham District, Xiengkhouang Province, to meet with Community Association for Salvation and Environment (CASE) and one of their target communities. CASE is one of the sub-grantees under the PIASVC project. The purpose of these visits to sub-grantees is to collect lessons learned and results from the project's implementation over the past months, particularly those related to training on land and natural resource laws, as well as awareness-raising activities for village volunteer groups, mediation units, government employees, and others. This visit will inform the PIASVC project and LIWG to refine the training program and tools to increase their effectiveness and impact. Read more about it in the Community Profile at: <https://tinyurl.com/7fhd9bh3>





Land Sub-Sector Working Group

LSSWG Meeting



The Land Sub-Sector Working Group (LSSWG) meeting on March 25, 2024 was co-chaired by Mr. Virana Sonenasin, Director General, Department of Land, MONRE, Mr. Jesper Elias Lauridsen, Country Director of Helvetas and chair of LIWG, and Ms. Annette Schramm, representative of GIZ. A total of 64 participants participated both face-to-face and online in discussions to improve land governance in Laos. Land registration, land use planning, and data management systems were identified as key priorities. A focus on customary land rights in forests and attracting responsible land investments was also highlighted. Collaboration across

sectors and incorporating lessons from current projects is crucial for success. The meeting also discussed the upcoming national development plan, in which the LSSWG is aiming to ensure land plays a significant role.

LIWG Trainings

Responsibility Agriculture Investment (RAI)



Trainers from the LIFE project and independent facilitators led a Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) training between 15 to 17 May 2024, with over 30 participants from various civil society organizations. During the training, participants were divided into discussion groups to collaboratively research content, problems, and challenges related to current agricultural practices. Participants presented their findings and exchanged ideas with each other and the trainers on a range of issues. The purpose of the training was to enhance the role of participants in agricultural investment efforts undertaken by various associations. Participants will use their improved capacity in the field to strengthen agricultural work within target villages.



What in the News!

Renewable energy – leading solutions to climate change mitigation in ASEAN

Lao News Agency (KPL/VNA) – Investing in renewable energy sources is as a palliative measure for ASEAN to mitigate climate change, according to Vice President of Infrastructure Solutions at Malaysian-based Vertiv Chee Hoe Ling. In Southeast Asia, for instance, energy demand has increased an average of roughly 3% a year for the past two decades – with fossil fuels meeting a sizeable portion of this, he said. The International Energy Agency noted that coal, natural gas, and oil are the largest contributors to the region's energy mix, adding that fossil fuel imports are key to powering the region.... Read more <https://tinyurl.com/yc4xp4a3>

Southeast Asian Countries Consider Ways to Boost 'Green Financing' as Region Chokes on Smog

Laotian Times - LUANG PRABANG, Laos (AP) — Senior finance and central bank officials from Southeast Asia and major economies met Thursday, 4 April in the scenic Lao city of Luang Prabang to discuss ways to help the region build resilience against shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters brought on by climate change. Read More: <https://tinyurl.com/68hpktz8>

Laos Proposes Selling Over 4,000 MW of Wind Power to Vietnam

THE LAOTIAN TIMES - Vietnam Electricity has received proposals from seven wind farm investors in Laos aiming to sell electricity to Vietnam, totaling nearly 4,150 megawatts (MW). According to Vietnamese and Lao state media reports on 27 and 29 February, citing Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade, the wind power from Laos will be transmitted to Vietnam via Quang Tri province's transmission lines. Lao investors plan to offer over 682 MW of wind power before 2025, with the remainder to be delivered afterward ... Read more <https://tinyurl.com/3nccwf3f>



Germany gives boost to land title registration

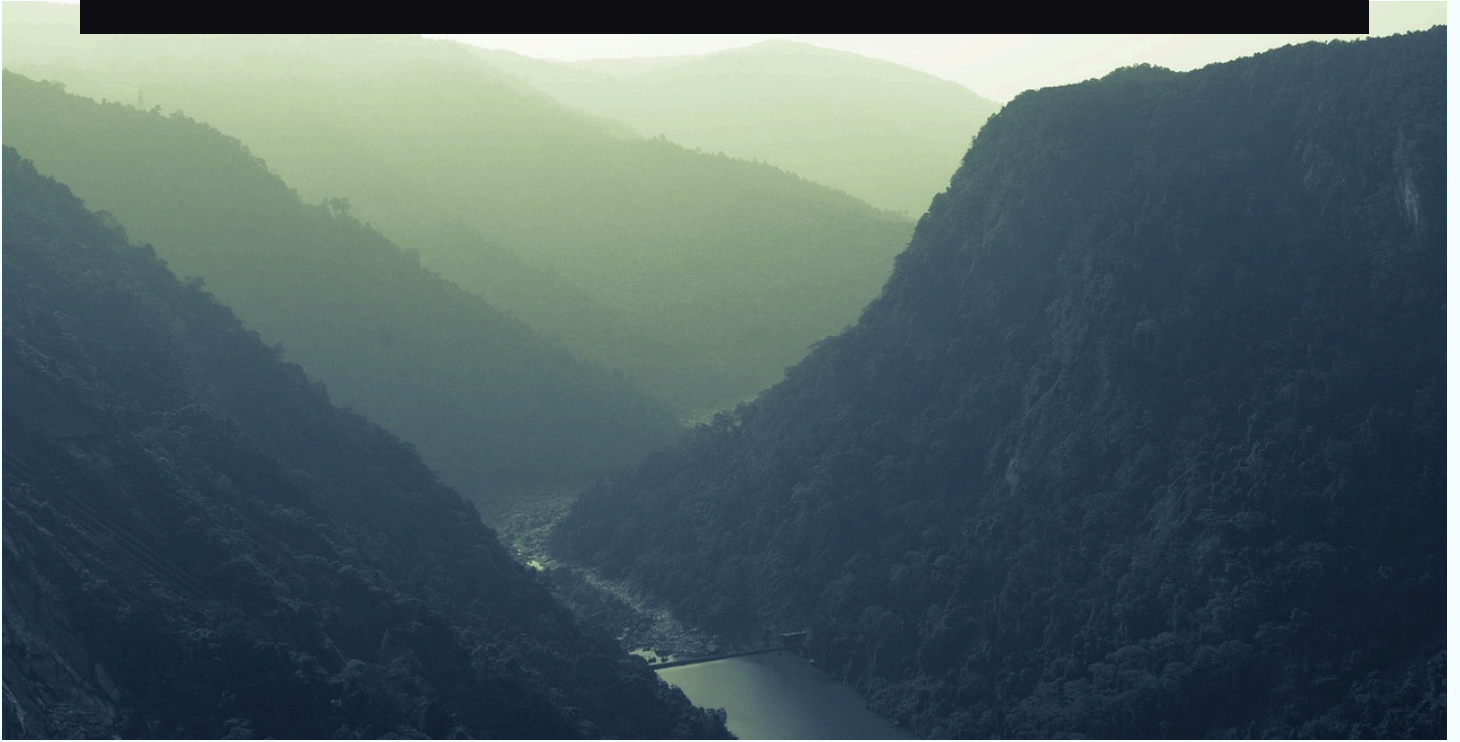
VIENTIANE TIMES - The Lao and German governments have launched the “Land Management Project for Laos” to assist the Lao government with land sector reform, with the ultimate aim of speeding up the issuing of land titles. The aim of the project is to accelerate the systematic land registration of eligible residential areas and agricultural land as well as the land titling process in the provinces of Huaphan, Xieng Khuang, Oudomxay and Xayaboury Read More <https://tinyurl.com/2rhunszh>

Laos eyes closer energy links with other ASEAN nations

VIENTIANE TIMES - Laos is hoping to deepen cooperation to overcome the challenges in energy development with other Asean nations, with closer regional connectivity to be discussed at the Asean Energy Senior Officials Meeting in June. The meeting will also discuss ways to further the transition to new alternative energy sources to mitigate the effects of climate change. In addition, the region’s energy authorities will discuss the importance of integrating Asean electricity grids to ensure energy stability among member countries and the need to move forward to achieve set goals.....Read More <https://tinyurl.com/43x7dbb5>

Laos governor: \$4.2 million for dam collapse survivors has gone missing

RADIO FREE ASIA - As much as US\$4.2 million allocated for survivors of a dam collapse in southern Laos has been misappropriated, the governor of Attapeu province has told the State Inspection Authority, provincial officials told Radio Free Asia. The newly appointed governor, Lt. Gen. Vanthong Kongmany, reported the missing funds to the agency on Jan. 10, the officials said.... Read More <https://tinyurl.com/4zwtee97>



UPCOMING EVENTS (JUNE — AUGUST 2024)

- PIASVC Training of Trainer on A2J, Contract Farming, RAI
- Start processing of calendar 2025 development
- Advisory Land Group Meeting (AG)

Thank for Reading our Newsletter

